THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The Central assistance for State Plans allocated by Planning Commission is released to States in the shape of block loans and block grants. The total Central assistance released to the Stale of Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years and in the current year so far is as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (so far)
Block Loans	279.51	224.89	235.19	267.60
Block Grants	1636.36	2034.83	2148.53	2399.34
Total	1915.87	2259.72	2383.72	2666.94

The Central assistance for State Plan is not related to any specific scheme/ project/region. It is for the State Government to ensure the equitable distribution of funds among the various regions of the State.

PM's Package for Socio-Economic Development of North-East

2078. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has announced Rs. 10271 crore package for socio-economic development of the North-Eastern Slates and Sikkim last January;

(b) if so, the time-frame for disbursement of these funds and their utilisation; and

(c) the purposes for which the funds will be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PAUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The package for Socio-Economic Development of North-East comprises of assistance i various areas including Banking and Commerce, Border Roads and Border Trade, Health, Education, Power, Civil Aviation, Flood Control, Information Technology, Horticulture etc. The time Schedule will be as per Schemes prepared by different agencies of the Central Government and the State Government concerned.